

Today's News - Tuesday, October 20, 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow is a no-newsletter day. We'll be back Thursday, October 22 (and a heads-up that Friday will be news-less as well).

- China's "ghost cities" prove "there is an urgent need for better urban-rural planning - and most importantly, the ideology of urban planning needs to change."
- Eger cheers California's "plan to foster Art Districts throughout the state," becoming one of 15 states "leading the effort to transform America for the rapidly evolving creative economy."
- Saffron eloquently explains why Philly's Open Streets event "is not the apocalypse" - and "shouldn't be a one-off thing. We've been taught for decades to believe our streets are for cars. But it may turn out they're really for us."
- Lots from the other side of the Big Pond: Hitchins offers an in-depth (and critical) look at "the largest development in London since the Great Fire of 1666" that includes the new U.S. Embassy and "a new gated world - the clusters of high-rise residential towers that are financing most of Nine Elms."
- Moore makes the case for why London Metropolitan University's sale of its "venerated art school is fatally short-sighted," and "would be a tragedy for British design. It is a magical, powerful, productive place...that supports something that Britain is good at."
- Heatherwick hits back at his Garden Bridge critics: "The intentions behind the bridge are entirely social and altruistic" (it will be for "normal people" - Pooh sticks included).
- Dittmar ponders the Stirling and when "laureates will be allowed to quote from Wren": "One wonders when designs which reference Breuer or Mies will be considered pastiche or historicist rather than contemporary."
- Wilkinson Eyre to build a Melbourne spire to be Australia's second-tallest tower, though it's "already causing controversy on a number of grounds" (but a "sculptural air bridge" is predicted to become a magnet for locals who would want to photograph it" - ya think?).
- The Kentucky International Convention Center renovation in Louisville to begin a \$180 million expansion that "will place the city on a competitive playing field with top-tier" convention destinations.
- Eyefuls of WAF shortlisted projects that show "how architects are redefining stadium design."
- The "next generation of ultra-efficient houses will redefine how we fight climate change," but its success "may rest upon something as prosaic (and American) as market rebranding. It's time to give Passive House a new name."
- Goodyear gets good vibes from the upcoming Robert Moses vs. Jane Jacobs opera: "Maybe only an opera could do justice to the scope of the forces at work."
- A sneak peek at what to expect at next week's Dubai Design Week 2015, "part of an initiative to establish the city as the center for design in the region."
- A good reason to be in Chicago in early November (besides the Biennial): ASLA 2015 Annual Meeting & Expo: "Perspectives."
- One we couldn't resist: "5 'Video Games' that architecture and design nerds will go crazy for."
- Call for entries: Applications for Harvard GSD's 2016-2017 Loeb Fellowship + Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation international ideas competition for an £80 million museum in Berlin.

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New 'ghost cities' typify out-of-control planning: China's poorly thought-out urban development plans will add to the roster of underoccupied 'ghost cities': ...there is an urgent need for better urban-rural planning...and most importantly, the ideology of urban planning needs to change...urban development should take place through natural growth of functional zones, rather than artificial planning. - ChinaDialogue.net

California Launches Effort Promoting Art and Culture Districts: ...a plan to foster Art Districts throughout the state, thereby enhancing creativity, and in the process, reinventing the landscape of cities throughout the state...To date, 15 states have taken on a formalized State role in the creation of art and cultural districts...leading the effort to transform America for the rapidly evolving creative economy...Few efforts to insure America's success and survival in the new economy could be more important. By John M. Eger - Huffington Post

Why Open Streets is not the apocalypse: Over the last decade, American cities have been making a concentrated effort to repair the damage done by a century of car-first policies...But now, urban planners are starting to pile up the wins. They've introduced amenities that encourage the slow-movers...The Open Streets event shouldn't be a one-off thing...We've been taught for decades to believe our streets are for cars. But it may turn out they're really for us. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

The eagle has landed: the progress of the largest development in London since the Great Fire of 1666, set to include the new American Embassy: ...80ha wasteland that will be...the future home of...a revitalised New Covent Garden Market, a new business district, and a new gated world...the clusters of high-rise residential towers that are financing most of Nine Elms. By Stephen Hitchins -- Rafael Viñoly; Foster + Partners; Frank Gehry; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Terry Farrell; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Fielden Clegg Bradley; FLACQ; KPF; KieranTimberlake; Berger Devine Yaeger/Louis Berger Group [images]- FX Magazine / DesignCurial

Killing the Cass would be a tragedy for British design: London Metropolitan University's planned £50m sale of its venerated art school is fatally short-sighted: ...school of art, architecture and design in Aldgate...is an exceptional asset for the cultural and commercial future of Britain...It is a magical, powerful, productive place...that supports something that Britain is good at...demolished and replaced with flats. By Rowan Moore- Observer (UK)

"Opposition to Garden Bridge is ludicrous and devastating": Thomas Heatherwick has hit back at critics...saying the project will benefit "normal people"...bemoaned a "deeply engrained" scepticism among the British, which he said could scupper his plans. "Scepticism can be a very positive force but it can also be deeply unhelpful and hold back progress...The intentions behind the bridge are entirely social and altruistic..." -- Heatherwick Studio- The Architects' Journal (UK)

When will Stirling Prize laureates be allowed to quote from Wren? If pastiche is so bad, why is it OK to be influenced by Breuer or the Smithsons: One wonders when designs which reference Breuer or Mies...will be considered pastiche or historicist rather than contemporary...Surely it is time to put down the cudgel of labelling and look to the quality of the design rather than the precedent employed? There are signs of change...this speaks of a richer architecture, one which draws inspiration from the entire treasure trove of the past... By Hank Dittmar -- Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM)- BD/Building Design (UK)

Wilkinson Eyre triumphs over rivals to land Australia's second-tallest tower: ...Queensbridge Hotel Tower...in Melbourne's Southbank district...already causing controversy on a number of grounds...scheme includes a "sculptural air bridge" over a public street which would link [to] Crown's existing casino and hotel complex...predicted the bridge would become a magnet for locals who would want to photograph it. -- Foster + Partners; Jean Nouvel; Bates Smart; Hassell- BD/Building Design (UK)

State releases renderings for Kentucky International Convention Center renovation [in Louisville]: ...not only will attract more convention business but will place the city on a competitive playing field with top-tier destinations around the country...\$180 million expansion... HOK; EOP Architects [images]- Louisville Business First

Keep cool and carry on: How architects are redefining stadium design: In the run up to this year's 8th annual World

Architecture Festival in Singapore, we preview buildings shortlisted in some of the more unusual categories. -- Zaha Hadid Architects; Pattern Design; NH Architecture; ACXT-IDOM; DinelJohansson; COX Architecture; Boogertman + Partners; UArchitects; Populous; Sweco Architects [images]- CNN

The House That Could Save the World: The next generation of ultra-efficient houses will redefine how we fight climate change - and how we live: "The other builders said...no one was interested. But that's not my experience"...The future success of this revolutionary approach may rest upon something as prosaic (and American) as market rebranding. It's time to give Passive House a new name... By Sara Solovitch -- Rob Hawthorne/Bart Berquist [images] - Politico

The Robert Moses Vs. Jane Jacobs Opera Is Almost Here: It's a love triangle - with both figures "vying for the love of the city": Maybe only an opera could do justice to the scope of the forces at work, and pretty soon we'll have one. It's called "A Marvelous Order"...draws the passion for the city that so many of its residents feel. By Sarah Goodyear -- Judd Greenstein; Will Rawls; Tracy K. Smith; Joshua Frankel [video]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Sneak Peek: What to Expect at Dubai Design Week 2015, October 26-31: ...part of an initiative to establish the city as the center for design in the region...will also inaugurate the annual Abwab initiative at the newly constructed Dubai Design District (d3), where six regional country pavilions will present curated exhibitions of both emerging and established design talent. [images]- Artinfo

ASLA 2015 Annual Meeting & EXPO: "Perspectives"; Chicago, November 6-9- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

5 'Video Games' that Architecture and Design Nerds Will Go Crazy For: ...may find themselves obsessed with these top-rated design and architecture video games. -- Minecraft; The Sims; Calvino Noir; Cities in Motion and Cities: Skylines; Homemake-Realty Today

Call for entries: Applications for the 2016-2017 Loeb Fellowship: a year in residence at the GSD for a wide range of mid-career design practitioners who have already had substantial social impact; deadline: January 6, 2016- Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Call for entries: Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation international ideas competition...£80 million museum will occupy a prominent plot next Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Neue Nationalgalerie and Hans Scharoun's Berliner Philharmonie; deadline: December 8- The Architects' Journal (UK)

A Filtered View: Buckminster Fuller (Not Al Gore) Invented the Internet: the first in a new series of musings by Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA- ArchNewsNow.com



-- SANAA: River building, Grace Farms: Nestled into the rolling landscape...the building begins on a knoll and then flows down the long, gentle slope in a series of bends, forming pond-like spaces on its journey. By Kirsten Kiser
-- Call for student writers for arccspace.
-- Santiago Calatrava: ...designs suggest stylized natural objects... By Kirsten Kiser

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